CHAPTER XXV

THE PHILIPPINES OF THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE[1]

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE YEAR 1936

^ I ^HE ^onst*tut*on °f the Philippines has survived the I varied processes of its development. The President -*- of the Commonwealth of the Philippines has been elected, has assumed his exalted office, and the last cheers have died away. The Commonwealth stands a lone country, oriental in setting but occidental in religion, in culture, and in prejudices.

The final chapter in the joint adventure of American-Filipino efforts is being written. It is a time for inventory-taking, for statesmanlike planning, and for soul-searching.

Several factors in the present situation are reassuring.

The reins of government have not fallen into untried hands. The President of the Commonwealth and his advisers are experienced in political statecraft. Recently they have shown a fuller understanding of the complexities of finance and economics. The approach to their tasks of the officials

[1]This chapter was read by Mr. Horace B. Pond, President of the Pacific Commercial Company, a well-informed Manilan. It is but fair to state that Mr. Pond does not agree with some of the views here expressed and has endeavored to persuade me to change them, but they represent my honest convictions and so I will let them stand. For a well-considered analysis of the future of Philippine commerce, see the address of Mr. Pond before the Manila Rotary on May 10, 1934. Possibly as fair a sketch as any of world conditions from personal observation is to be found in Frazier Hunt, *This Bewildered World* (1934). I ran into Mr. Hunt in Harbin, upper Manchuria,

when he was gathering the material for this book, and when, by the way, he mistook me for the American Consul.